

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00184 250106Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /099 W

-----250457 035194 /15

R 241425Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SEVSTATE WASHDC 5517

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETOCIA

AMCONSUG CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS MAPUTO 0184

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, SR

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE MEDIA COVERAGE OF RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. LOCAL DAILY NOTICIAS OF FEBRUARY 23 CARRIES THREE STORIES
ON RHODESIAN AFFAIRS.

A. THE FIRST CONTAINS A POPULAR FRONT DENUNCIATION OF
RECENT LEGISLATIVE MOVES BY IAN SMITH AMENDING EXISTING LAND POLICY
TO PERMIT BLACKS TO PURCHASE LAND IN FORMER WHITE-ONLY AREAS. THE POPU-
LAR FRONT DENOUNCED THIS AS
A COSMETIC CHANGE ONLY DESIGNED TO DECEIVE INTERNATIONAL
OPINION AND CREATE A SMALL BLACK ELITE "COMPRADOR"
CLASS. THE COMMUNIQUE NOTES THAT SMITH PROMISED DESMONDO
FROST AND THE RHODESIA FRONT PARTY THAT DISCRIMINATION
WILL CONTINUE IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS.

B. THE SECOND ARTICLE REPEATS THE CLAIM OF THE POPULAR
FRONT OF INFLECTING FURTHER LOSSES ON THE SMITH FORCES,
INCLUDING THE KILLING OF TWO DISTRICT ASSISTANTS AND A
RESERVIST SOLDIER. CURIOUSLY, THE ARTICLE (ATTRIBUTED
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PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00184 250106Z

TO THE MOZAMBIQUE NEWS AGENCY) THEN GIVES AN "IZVESTIA"
REBUTTAL TO WESTERN CHARGES THAT "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES
HAVE BEEN ILLEGALLY TRADING WITH THE SMITH REGIME.
THE "IZVESTIA" ARTICLE COUNTERATTACKS CLAIMING THIS
IS MERELY A SMOKE SCREEN TO COVER THE FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS
OF THE WESTERN MONOPOLIES IN PURCHASING RHODESIAN CHROME,
NICKEL AND ABESTOS. THE REBUTTAL ALSO MAKES REFERENCE

TO THE BYRD AMEMDMENT AND MOBIL OIL SALES OF POL TO
RHODESIA, SPECIFICALLY CHARGING "AMERICAN MONOPOLIES"
AS ALWAYS HAVING VIOLATED SANCTIONS.

C. THE THIRD ARTICLE REPORTS WITHOUT COMMENT A STATE-
MENT BY THE NEW BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN
THAT "HE IS READY TO MAKE A TRIP TO AFRICA IF IT WOULD
HELP IN THE RESOLUTION OF THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM."
ARTICLE QUOTES OWEN AS ACKNOWLEDGING US-UK CONSUL-
TATIONS IN WASHINGTON ON RHODESIA, STATING THAT "ALL
OPTIONS ARE OPEN," AND NOTING THAT HMG WOULD KEEP IM
TOUCH WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES INCLUDING SMITH AND
THE LEADERS OF THE FRONT LINE STATES.DE PREE

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